

STATE SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary -- November 12, 2002

9:40 Jeff Kelley-Clark called the meeting to order. Following introductions, SWAC Members approved the September Meeting Summary.

Old Business

9:44 Minimum Functional Standards: **Cullen Stephenson** responded to SWAC
Cullen's response to the SWAC Comment Letter distinguished between the various entities responsible for the safe and consistent collection of recyclables and those responsible for the collection and disposal of garbage. He described local government's controls over the stringency of definitions.

9:51 Recycling Rate Data Collection: **Gretchen Newman**

Gretchen described the data collection parameters –what materials streams are included, who reports, the quality-check process (double-counting adjustments), and rate calculation formulas. Her PowerPoint slides showed highlights of her survey responses. Except for wood waste and food waste, recycling and disposal rates both are down.

Has Ecology considered including an economic component (garbage is a luxury item) and a weather index in the recycling data report?

Gretchen outlined the content of the survey sheet –including waste diversion measures. She also defined the design of future data collection surveys.

Has Ecology conducted a "surveys" survey to determine that you're asking the right question, and the right people? Can you determine who's surveying [whom], how often –maybe combine [all pertinent] questions into a single survey?

Sounds like you want a single survey to fulfill several [kinds of data collection] needs. We are trying to identify all of the [categorical and measurement] information [necessary to compile an accurate status report each year].

How many entities are reporting? About five-hundred. Maybe you should [devise] a way to identify the reliable reporters, and show trends by using their data...

10:28 Statewide Solid Waste Management Plan: **Cheryl Smith**

Cheryl reported on work done by the consultants and advised SWAC of things to do to address existing waste problems: (1) support/promote/demand "green building", (2) minimize the use of toxins in industrial processes, and (3) establish [an understanding of/appreciation for the] organics cycle; (4) reduce material consumption and toxicity, (5) keep technical materials cycling in the upper levels of the economy, and (6) align prices/fees/taxes with desired behavior changes. She noted initiatives for which action plans have not been developed...

Have the consultants considered which of their recommendations will have the biggest impacts on toxicity and volume? All of [those listed above] need to work together. Any one [effort], in isolation, can only yield low results.

What goal(s) will we set; how will we measure performance and report results? What about unintended consequences...? As [planning and implementation move] forward, Ecology needs to develop [a meaningful] measuring and reporting system. We're shifting our focus [away from merely weighing end-user waste volumes], toward identifying [attitudes and practices that] generate waste.

Give us some idea who is supposed to be reducing waste...To change one habit allows it to be replaced by another –not necessarily a better one. Be realistic about where control resides...Economics have the greatest influence. The real stakeholders –producers, manufacturers, retailers—are not at this table. We have to recognize the limits of Ecology's control. We're working at bringing those people [above the consumer] up the [product] design chain [to the table]. We also need the legislature's advocacy...to tax the behaviors that we want to change.

The five issues you propose for inclusion in the Plan are a good bridge between existing problems and our vision for the next twenty years... Closed and abandoned landfills are a hot

issue; identifying unrecorded sites should be a high priority... We need a swift response mechanism for [handling] special wastes...

Education [to promote] behavior change is not listed separately because it is integral to every element of the Plan.

Cullen referred to the Governor's Executive Order on sustainability, reminding the SWAC of the power of leading by example. He said Ecology's headquarters facility is leading the efforts to reduce paper waste, to conserve energy, and to practice sustainability in its motor pool operations/maintenance.

11:20 PBT – Mercury Action Plan: Cheri Peele highlighted the draft Action Plan

Cheri described the context (the nature of the problem, the risks posed to human health, our inability to contain mercury contamination); our joint and separate work with the Department of Health, selection of the Advisory Committee; the Plan's development process and proposed implementation schedule...

How much background mercury do we have? Mercury travels easily between [air, soil, and water]; the amount circulating through the biosphere has tripled since the onset of the industrial age...Exposures and releases come from the improper disposal of mercury-switch products, the burning of fossil fuels (especially diesel), and flushing/burning/washing into the atmosphere.

We know that mercury is in our landfills; our challenges are to avoid adding to what's already there, and to keep it from escaping into the environment...

Why not piggy-back [this Action Plan] on [top of] the mercury [product] bans being introduced in Oregon? Ecology lacks authority to ban products.

New Business

11:55 Proposed Year 2003 Legislation: Cullen Stephenson –No legislation requested by SW&FAP

- Waste / Discarded Tires – no agency legislation requested. Dave Nightingale told SWAC about the low market demand for scrap tires; he listed tire-derived fuel, civil engineering applications, and ground (crumb) rubber as the best markets.
- WUTC and Haulers -- Deborah Reynolds said that under proposed RULES, (1) the minimum fee will double, and (2) haulers will be given an opportunity for hearing. The rulemaking currently in progress would require haulers to file a Notice of Affiliation.

12:20 Landfill Operator Certification: Steven Williams recommends moving administration of the program to SWANA; cost per applicant would start at \$450.00; he asked the SWAC for both recommendations and clarification of SWAC's role in certification.

Under the current proposal, SWANA would conduct several days' training before allowing individuals to take a comprehensive test? Yes—rather than cram from a book and regurgitate it for the test to earn a certificate... A SWAC subcommittee, (comprised of Bob S./Eddie W., Rod, and Brad from the SWAC, and Bob Jones and Henry Friedmann from outside the SWAC) will study and respond to the issue.

12:36 Garbage Strike: Eddie Westmoreland outlined the schedule of action and counter proposals. *No significant progress ensued after the September mediation effort ended. Some workers complained to the National Labor Relations Board that union compensation demands are unrealistic in this economy; they seek decertification of the union as a means to resolution.*

12:50 SWAC/Ecology Announcements/Public Comments

Lorie Hewitt described the "Rehab The Lab" project funded by the transfer of \$250,000 budgeted for Remedial Action Grants into the Coordinated Prevention Grants account.

12:54 Adjourned

<i>Attending Members/Alternates:</i> Holly Chisa Timothy Croll Mark Buscher Jeff Kelley-Clark Rob Guttridge Brad Lovass Craig Lorch Bob Schille Sally Toteff Eddie Westmoreland Deborah Reynolds
--

<i>Attending Nonmembers:</i> Linda Dennis Norm LeMay Jerry Smedes Damon Taam
--